



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

P

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,974	11/21/2003	Bo Yeon Kim	9988.081.00-US	8004
30827	7590	05/10/2006	EXAMINER	
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006				HANSEN, JAMES ORVILLE
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
				3637

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/717,974	KIM, BO YEON	
<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>		
James O. Hansen	3637		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 5, 2006 & March 3, 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 3, 2006 has been entered.

#### ***Drawings***

2. A replacement sheet of drawings was received on March 3, 2006. The examiner, for examination purposes, approves these drawings.

#### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: In Claim 6, it appears that the phrase "cabinet cover" should be changed to --cabinet cover body--so as to remain consistent with the previously disclosed limitations. Appropriate correction may be required depending upon applicant's intent.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Prior Art Admission of Figures 1-4 [known hereafter as APAA]. As to claim 1, APAA teaches of a cabinet cover for a home appliance comprising: a cabinet cover

body (12) having an installation hole (12a) at a predetermined location for receiving from a rear side a control panel (26) for controlling the home appliance; and an aesthetic member (14) covering the installation hole, wherein a peripheral edge of the member [viewed as the distal edge -top and bottom of fig. 3 for example- of the aesthetic member] is attached to the rear side of the cabinet cover body with a joint (outside joint of "C" – the position is taken that the member is attached to the rear side of the body with a joint formed by welding, so far as broadly claimed. The examiner notes that the member is attached to the body and only the outside weld joint "C" is required and relied upon to meet the limitation as presently claimed), wherein a front side of the member is attached to the rear side of the cabinet cover body (see fig. 3) by an adhesive agent (B – the position is taken that the front side of the member is attached to the rear side of the body and an adhesive agent is present to enable the members to remain in contact). As to claim 2, the aesthetic member is larger than the installation hole (fig. 3). As to claim 3, the cabinet cover body and the aesthetic member are inherently made of a stainless steel based material (as evident by the cross-hatched sections). As to claim 4, the body and member may be manufactured using an array of cutting devices as is conventionally known in the art. It is noted that the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself and therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight. As to claim 5, the aesthetic member is provided with a plurality of holes (fig. 4 for example) for receiving the control panel. As to claim 6, an adhesive agent as noted above attaches the front side of the member to the rear side of the cover body. It is noted that the method of forming the device, i.e., "before forming the joint by welding",

is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself and therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art Admission of Figures 1-4 [APAA] in view of Snider [U.S. Patent No. 6,018,131]. APAA teaches of a cabinet cover for a home appliance as structurally disclosed above, but does not state the prescribed method of attaching the member to the body [another position may be taken that APAA does not show the process of attaching the member to the body in view of applicant's intent – Claims 1-6], and does not show a joint disposed about a peripheral edge of the member formed by welding [Claims 7-11]. Snider (figures 1-9) is cited as an evidence reference to show that it was known in the art at the time the invention was made to employ an array of attaching means/methods for attaching a member to a body (see figures). Accordingly, the position is put forth that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would deem obvious to attach a member to a body utilizing any of the known [and combinations of the known] conventional attaching methods as taught by Snider since it was known for a worker in the art to select a conventional attaching method on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of personal preference where the attaching method does not produce any new or

unexpected result. Such experimentation involves only routine skill in the art. As to the peripheral edge joint formed by welding, the position is put forth that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would deem obvious to swap the securing means, i.e., switch or interchange the glued joints with the welded joints, depending upon the initial set-up needs or the completed assembly needs of the user. Such considerations are not viewed as being new or unobvious ways for attaching the member to the body. In the present case, the claimed processes [formed by welding / welded / adhesive agent before forming the joint by welding etc.] do not establish any new or unobvious functional relationships to the cover body upon which they are associated. As such, lacking a new or unobvious functional relationship to the cover body, the claimed 'forming processes' are not germane to patentability and therefore do not represent a difference over the prior art.

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments filed March 3, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. It is viewed that the prior art rejections above adequately address applicant's remarks.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James O. Hansen whose telephone number is 571-272-6866. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 8-4:30 pm.

Art Unit: 3637

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James O. Hansen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3637

JOH  
May 9, 2006



REPLACEMENT SHEET  
10/717,974

FIG. 5

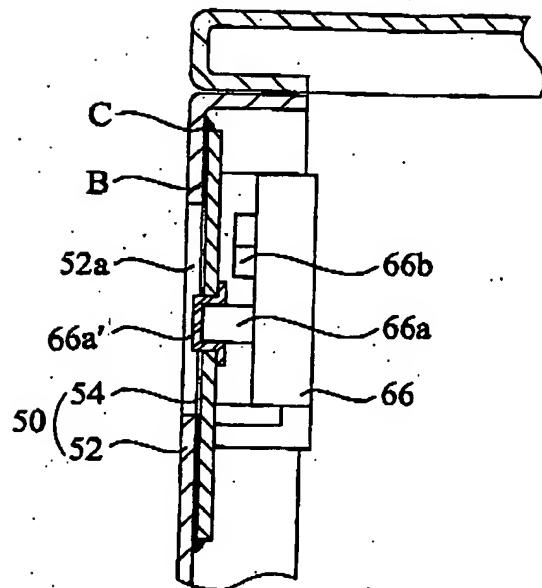
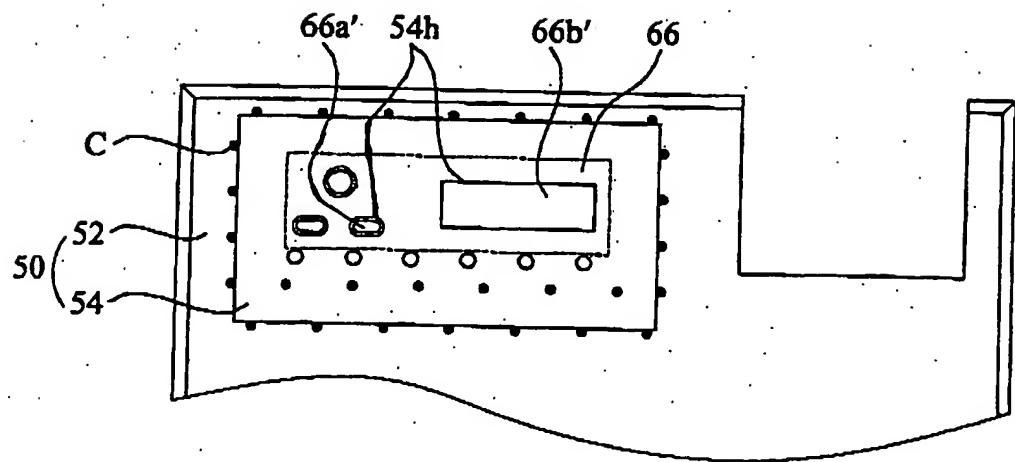


FIG. 6



Approved for  
Examination purposes  
An 5/9/06